

**National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)
Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points
Monday, October 15, 2018
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT**

Roll Call

Tribal Caucus

- ☐ Region 1: William (Billy) Longfellow
(Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- ☐ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☒ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☒ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians)
- ☐ Region 4: Jerry Cain (Mississippi Band of
Choctaw Indians)
- ☐ Region 5: Jeffrey Mears (Oneida Nation)
- ☒ Region 6: Rick DuBois (Seneca-Cayuga Nation)
- ☒ Region 6 *Alternate*: Rebecca Bond (Kickapoo
Tribe of Oklahoma)
- ☒ Region 7: Page Hingst (Santee Sioux Nation of
Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Misha Mazurkewycz (Ponca
Tribe of Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 8: Joshua Tweeton (Spirit Lake Tribe)
- ☒ Region 8 *Alternate*: Allyson Two Bears
(Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- ☒ Region 9: Carlotta (Carley) Whitecrane (Karuk
Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: TBD
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone-Bannock
Tribes)
- ☒ Region 10 *Alternate*: Kelly Wright (Shoshone-
Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 (Alaska): Orville Huntington
(Tanana Chiefs Conference)

Support Personnel

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ☒ Kristen LeBaron, Contract Support

EPA Caucus

- ☐ Region 1: Robert Hillger
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☐ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ☒ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☐ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☒ Region 6: Alexandra (Alexa) Olson
- ☐ Region 7: Amy Shields
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Amber Tilley
- ☐ Region 8: Alfred Basile
- ☒ Region 9: Destinee Cooper
- ☒ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☒ AIEO: Francine St. Denis
- ☒ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ☐ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OCSP: Karen Hamernik
- ☒ OEI: Beth Jackson
- ☒ OLEM: David Charters
- ☒ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: José Zambrana
- ☒ OW: Karen Gude

Invited Speakers/Guests

- ☒ April Hathcoat, Cherokee Nation Environmental
Programs
- ☒ Randy Gee, EPA Region 6, Office of
Environmental Justice, Tribal and International
Affairs

Action Items

1. José Zambrana will send the TSC members the SurveyMonkey poll to rank potential presentation topics for the TSC's Winter 2018 Face-to-Face Meeting.
2. TSC members will complete the survey when they receive it.
3. TSC members who are attending the TSC Winter 2018 Face-to-Face Meeting will make their hotel reservations no later than November 12.
4. José will follow up with Amy Shields about information that she had sent about a possible climate change presentation for an upcoming TSC science seminar.

Key Discussion Points

Roll Call

- Monica Rodia took the roll of teleconference participants. Francine St. Denis is the new EPA Representative from the American Indian Environmental Office.

Caucus Report Outs

- Rick DuBois reported that the Tribal Caucus had met the previous Friday and had discussed possible topics and tours for the upcoming face-to-face meeting. The Caucus also decided to meet the Thursday before each monthly TSC call.
- José reported that he had visited Jeff Mears at the Oneida Nation and then had met with Monica, Kacee Deener and Fred Hauchman in Washington, D.C., to discuss how ORD can more effectively engage tribes.

TSC Science Seminar: Overview of the Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (CNEP) Air Monitoring Program, April Hathcoat, CNEP

- The Cherokee Nation is the largest federally recognized Native American tribe, with approximately 365,525 registered tribal members. The 6,950-square-mile reservation covers six full and eight partial counties in northeastern Oklahoma, with 135,752 enrolled Cherokees residing on the reservation.
- CNEP's mission is to protect, preserve and restore in a sustainable manner the Cherokee Nation's naturally diverse ecosystems for the health and benefit of future generations.
- The CNEP Clean Air Program began in 1996 with a Clean Air Act Section 103 project grant. The network consists of five monitoring stations—four fixed locations and one mobile monitoring station. All stations monitor ozone and meteorological parameters, and some stations monitor additional pollutants, such as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter (PM).
- The Cherokee Nation participates in five EPA national program initiatives: the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), which evaluates long-term trends in ambient concentrations and dry deposition estimates; Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments, which tracks changes in visibility; the Mercury Deposition Network, which measures mercury in precipitation; the Ammonia Monitoring Network, which measures ammonia gas concentrations via passive sampling; and the Atmospheric Mercury Network, which measures atmospheric mercury fractions that contribute to dry and total mercury deposition.

- The Cherokee Nation has a National Core Multipollutant Network site at its rural CASTNET site near Stilwell.
- April Hathcoat displayed photographs of the various Cherokee Nation air monitoring sites and maps showing their locations and distance from potential pollution sources (e.g., industrial parks).
- CNEP submits data hourly to AirNow and quarterly to EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) database. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality uses CNEP data for Air Quality Index alerts. Data are directly accessible on the Cherokee Nation website at geodata.cherokee.org/CleanAir. April displayed screenshots highlighting the data available on the website.
- CNEP also provides outreach to students and gives site tours.
- The next steps for the CNEP Air Monitoring Program are to work to maintain the air monitoring already in place, determine how to make the best use of sensor technology, and identify a location for a new monitoring site if funding allows.
- April described the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC), which was formed in 1992 when 20 tribes signed the original memorandum of agreement. ITEC currently provides services to 45 tribes and pueblos in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana.
- The Cherokee Nation participates in the following ITEC programs: clean air, pesticides, Superfund, Brownfields response, underground storage tank and the General Assistance Program.
- Through ITEC, CNEP helps other tribes with baseline assessments, technical assistance and AQS data entry support.
- The ITC mobile monitoring station measures ozone, fine and coarse PM, and meteorological parameters. The data are uploaded to the AQS database and submitted to AirNow. The station has been located on nine different tribal reservations and currently is located on Wyandotte Nation land. It is being removed from the Wyandotte Nation this week for maintenance and then will be moved to New Mexico.
- ITEC clean air staff provide independent auditing services using certified equipment and standards to ITEC participating tribes at no cost. Staff currently perform audits for the Quapaw Tribe, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Kaw Nation.
- TSC members who would like more information about CNEP or ITEC can contact April at april-hathcoat@cherokee.org.
- Karen Hamernik asked how long it takes for measurements to return to baseline following a tornado or storm. April responded that occasionally increased PM is seen in conjunction with a storm at one of the monitoring sites because of a nearby gravel road. Storms do not affect the readings as much as wildfires, which elevate ozone readings. Storms can affect the electrical surges at air monitoring sites.
- José asked whether the Cherokee Nation carries out prescribed burns. April replied that the practice is not typical, although one prescribed burn near one of the air monitoring sites caused slightly elevated ozone levels that did not exceed the threshold.

Fall 2018 Face-to-Face Meeting

- José has developed an online poll through SurveyMonkey to allow TSC members to rank the potential presentation topics in order of interest. After the poll is edited, he will send it to the TSC members.

- Monica has sent the logistics information about the upcoming face-to-face meeting to the TSC members, including information about making hotel reservations. The last day to make hotel reservations at the meeting rate is Monday, November 12.
- Monica is developing the training memorandum for the EPA Representatives.
- Troy Rutkofske is on medical leave, so Katherine Williams is the point of contact for Tribal Representatives to secure their travel to the meeting. Please ensure that Monica and Cynthia Howell are copied on all correspondence; their contact information is on the travel request form that Monica sent to the Tribal Representatives.
- The Agenda Development Team plans to hold its third conference call during the week of October 22.

Announcements

- Monica is available to provide TSC orientation for any new members who are interested.
- The Newsletter Team will convene during the week of October 22 to plan the next issue of the *EPA-Tribal Science Bulletin*.
- Neil Patterson explained that he works with a number of partners who are engaged in training and academic research regarding indigenous research methodologies; the partners also are thinking about community collaboration and cooperation. The goal is to include them in the upcoming face-to-face meeting.
- Region 9's annual Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting will be held at the end of October in San Francisco, and an alternate TSC Tribal Representative will be appointed. José is planning to attend.
- Karen Gude provided updates about the Office of Water's (OW) current and upcoming tribal consultations.
 - Three new drinking water grants programs were created under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act: assistance to small and disadvantaged communities, reducing lead in drinking water, and lead testing in drinking water in schools and childcare programs. One of OW's tribal consultations focuses on the lead testing grants program to obtain tribal input on the ranking criteria for school and childcare programs. An informational webinar is planned for October 17, and the comment period closes on October 22. A listening session is being held during the National Congress of American Indians on October 24.
 - The other current tribal consultation is about peak flows management rulemaking, specifically with regard to permitting publicly owned treatment works that have separate sanitary sewer collection systems during peak flow times. Stakeholder meetings are being held in Lenexa, Kansas, on October 16 and in Washington, D.C., on October 24. A webinar will be held on October 24.
 - The next tribal consultation that OW will undertake within the next month pertains to clarifying rules for the Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit Program.

Next TSC Teleconference

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on November 19, 2018, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST.